

Fact Sheet

Profiles of Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Family Profiles Highlights

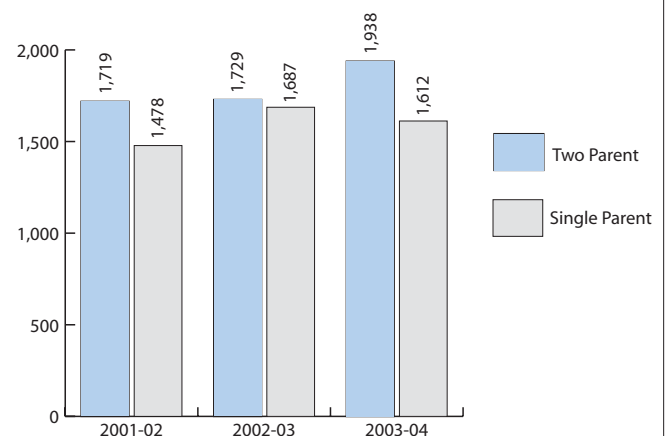
- More than half of all Head Start families are two-parent households
- Most Head Start parents are employed
- Most Head Start families have parents with education beyond high school
- Most Head Start families obtain multiple services
- Father involvement in Head Start activities is increasing



More than Half of All Head Start Families are Two-Parent Households

Since 2001, when data were first collected on types of families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start, two-parent households have comprised slightly more than half of all families with children enrolled in Head Start. In 2003-04, 55% of Head Start families were headed by two parents. In contrast, according to the 2000 Census, married couples constituted almost 77% of all families with their own children younger than age 6 in North Dakota, while single parents comprised the remaining 23%.

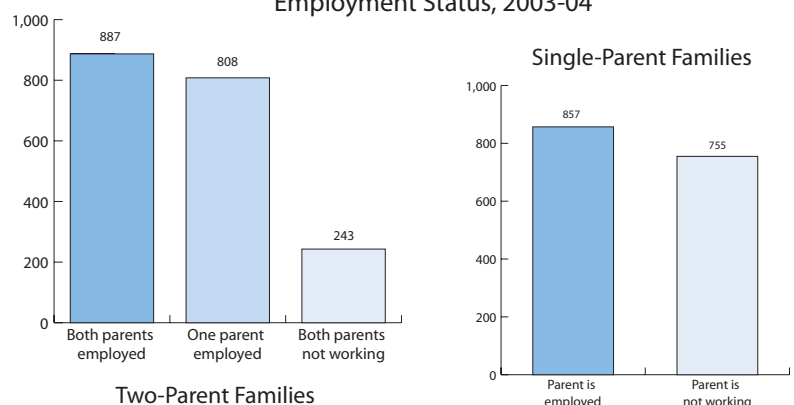
Figure 1. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type, 2001-2004



Most Head Start Parents are Employed

Most parents who have children in North Dakota Head Start programs are employed, whether in single-parent or two-parent households. These families are part of the "working poor" in our state. In 2003-04, both parents were employed in 46% of two-parent homes and an additional 42% had one parent employed. In about 13% of two-parent Head Start families both parents were not working due to either unemployment, retirement, or disability. In contrast, 53% of single parents with children in Head Start programs were employed and 47% were not working.

Figure 2. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type and Parent(s) Employment Status, 2003-04



Data Source and Note:

Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 1999-2004. In this fact sheet, guardians are included in data on parents.

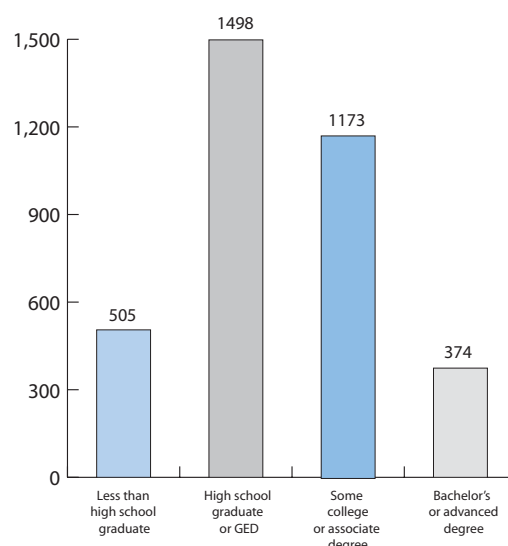
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Most Head Start Families Have Parents with Education Beyond High School

Many families who have children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs have parents who have achieved an education beyond high school. In 33% of families, the highest level of parental education was some college or an associate degree in 2003-04, and in almost 11% of families the highest level attained was a bachelor's or advanced degree. In 42% of families, the highest level attained was a high school diploma or GED. In about 14% of families, parents had completed less than a high school education.

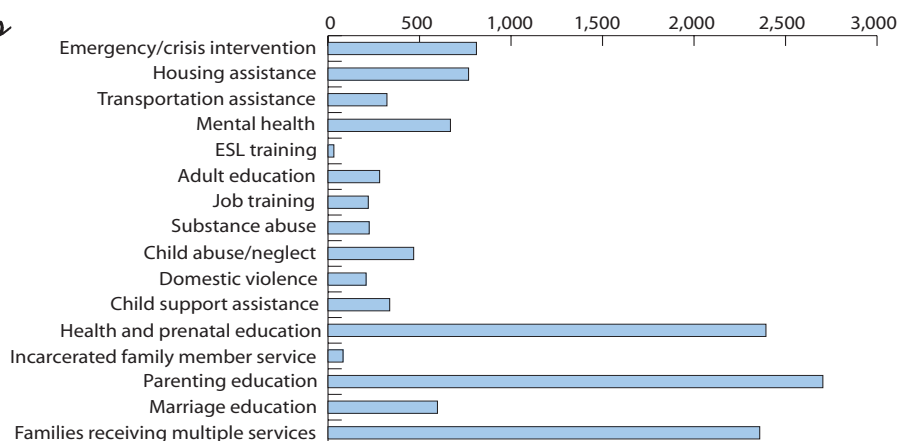
Figure 3. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Highest Education Level of Parent(s), 2003-04



Most Head Start Families Obtain Multiple Services

Families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs often deal with numerous personal and familial issues which require assistance or services, such as emergency help or mental health services. The majority of Head Start families received health and prenatal education (67%) and benefited from parenting education services (76%). Two-thirds of all North Dakota Head Start families obtained multiple services during 2003-04.

Figure 4. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Type of Service Received, 2003-04



Father Involvement in Head Start Activities is Increasing

Since 2001, when North Dakota Head Start programs began recording father involvement, there has been a growth in the number of fathers or father figures participating in regularly scheduled activities designed to involve fathers in Head Start programs. By 2003-04, most (95%) of the state's 21 Head Start programs organized these regularly scheduled events.

Figure 5. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Whose Fathers/Father Figures Participated in Regularly Scheduled Activities, 2001-2004

